

Advice to Prospective Home Builders for Private Wells and Sewage Disposal Systems

The Erie County Department of Health is prepared to assist you, your plumber and your contractor, in the provision of satisfactory sanitary facilities for your home. But, to be of maximum help to you, the department should be advised before any construction is started.

To help solve your problem, this office will, upon request, furnish you with a design and sketch of atypical satisfactory sewage disposal system based upon the estimated sewage flow from your dwelling and absorptive capacity of the soil on your property, after the investigation has been made. A soil percolation test is required in order to furnish this information. To make the test, it will be necessary to have dug 20 feet apart in the area of the proposed disposal field, at least two (2) holes approximately one (1) foot square at the bottom and 24 inches deep. We shall arrange to have a representative present when you advise us that the holes have been dug. At that time, soil tests will be made and a system designed. About two (2) pails of water will be needed for each test. Please locate the lot in the field with a tall stake marked with your name. In addition, between the two (2) percolation holes, please provide one (1) auger or fencepost hole to a depth of four (4) feet.

When the investigation is made, the health department representative will take into consideration the proposed well location and it's protection from pollution. Sketches showing details of good well construction and sanitary seals will be made available. Consult with this department before a well is drilled.

If it is planned to subdivide property into lots, or purchase lots in subdivision, the owner should consult with the health department district office to assure that plans approved by the health department are on file. Such plans show the drainage of the property and satisfactory arrangements for water supply and sewage disposal.

This service is for your protection as well as to help maintain a sanitary environment in your community. We believe you will agree that it generally costs no more to do the job right in the first place. Please do not hesitate to call upon this district office at any time.

NOTE: The soil test holes which are one (1) foot square and 24 inches deep shall be presoaked the night before the test by filling to the top with clean water. Do not use the two (2) pails of water intended for testing, and DO NOT put water into the auger hole.